· AUSTRALIA $1.50 · CANADA $1.50 · FRANCE 1.00 EURO · NEW ZEALAND $1.50 · SWEDEN KR10 · UK £.50 · U.S. $1.00

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Minnesota meat packers expand fight to defend union
—PAGE 5

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE
VOL. 71/NO. 34 SEPTEMBER 17, 2007

Gov't agency calls off search for trapped Utah miners

BY BILL ESTRADA

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) told the families of the six trapped miners at the nonunion Crandall Canyon mine August 31, that the search operation for six missing miners has been suspended indefinitely. Four days earlier, MSHA announced that the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) would not be allowed to participate in the agency's investigation as a representative of the families.

Since the August 6 mine collapse that trapped miners Kerry Allred, Luis Hernández, Brandon Phillips, Carlos Payán, Manuel Sanchez and Don Erickson, seven boreholes drilled from the mountain top have not found any sign of the six men.

On August 16, two bosses and one MSHA official were killed after another collapse occurred during the rescue effort. Five miners and another MSHA

Continued on page 9

1.1 million in U.S. face home foreclosure

BY PAUL PEDERSON

NEW YORK, September 1—U.S. stock indexes swung sharply in August, as the continued unraveling of the housing boom rattled investors. Nearly 180,000 homes entered foreclosure in July, almost double the figure for the same month last year.

These were among more than 1.1 million homeowners who faced default notices, auction sale notices, and bank repossessions in the first seven months of this year, according to Realtytrac, a firm that maintains a tally of foreclosures.

More than half the properties in foreclosure proceedings involve high-risk, so-called subprime loans. Lenders have lured many working people and middle-class families into borrowing at high interest rates and fees on the promise of continuously rising home values.

"Global financial losses have far exceeded even the most pessimistic projec-

Continued on page 4

'Stop ICE raids!'

Workers in Boston protest immigration sweep



Militant/Ted Leonard

September 4 march and rally in Massachusetts protested immigration raids the week before

BY TED LEONARD

CHELSEA, Massachusetts, September 4—A march and rally here today protested a three-day immigration sweep through East Boston, Chelsea, and surrounding areas.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) claims the operation was aimed at suspected members of the Salvadoran gang MS-13 (Mara Salvatrucha) who had outstanding warrants. The 36 people arrested August 28–30, however, are being held on immigration, not criminal, charges. They are facing deportation to Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, as well as El Salvador.

The sweep involved local cops and ICE agents, as well as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Middlesex Sheriff's Department, and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA).

Authorities have refused to release the names of those arrested.

In a similar action August 8, ICE agents arrested 27 people in the parking lot of a Chelsea supermarket called Market Basket. An ICE agent posing as

Continued on page 4

White House to seek additional $200 billion for war in Iraq

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—U.S. president George Bush and Iraqi prime minister Nouri al-Maliki visited Iraq's Anbar province September 3. The surprise trip came five days after White House officials said the Bush administration plans to ask Congress for nearly $200 billion more to finance the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The funding request comes on top of the $460 billion in the 2008 war budget. After a few weeks of antiwar posturing earlier this year, the Democratic-controlled Congress approved a White House request for $100 billion in supplemental war funding in May.

While in Iraq, Bush praised the progress of Washington's ground offensive—involving 28,000 additional troops since January. In Anbar, a former stronghold of Sunni forces fighting against U.S. troops, "you see Sunnis who once fought side by side with al-Qaeda against coalition troops now fighting side by side with coalition troops against al-Qaeda," he said.

An August 23 report by 16 U.S. intelligence agencies known as a Nation-

Continued on page 9

New 'Thomas Sankara Speaks' will appear in French, English

To feature speeches of African communist leader

BY SAM MANUEL

Pathfinder Press this fall is releasing new English and French-language editions of *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, a collection of speeches and interviews with the most outstanding revolutionary and communist leader produced by the struggles of Africa's working people and youth. The new books will be released in early October, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the assassination of Sankara.

Socialist workers and youth in North America and elsewhere will be joining with others in coming months to organize meetings with panels of speakers to launch the new books and discuss their political lessons.

On August 4, 1983, a popular uprising in Upper Volta, a former French colony in West Africa, initiated one of the deepest revolutions in African history. Thirty-three-year-old Sankara was the uprising's central leader and became Upper Volta's president. The name of the country was changed a year later to Burkina Faso—the Land of Upright Men.

Between 1983 and late 1987, the revolutionary government under Sankara's leadership organized workers, peasants, and youth to carry out a broad range of social measures. Among these were nationalization of the land and other steps to improve the conditions of rural toilers, tree-planting and irrigation projects to push back the encroaching Sahel

Continued on page 6

Sankara speech on Third World debt
First time published in English
—See p. 6

Venezuela event discusses 60 years since first World Youth Festival

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON AND ANNALUCIA VERMUNT

CARACAS, Venezuela—Hundreds of young people from across the Americas, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East gathered here August 23–25 for a conference marking the 60th anniversary of the World Festivals of Youth and Students. It was sponsored by the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), which brings together anti-imperialist youth organizations from around the world.

Miguel Madeira, WFDY president and a leader of the Communist Youth of Portugal, reported to the closing ceremony that nearly 1,000 delegates from 70 organizations in 50 countries attended the seminar. The majority came from Latin America, with the largest delegations, several hundred each, from Cuba and Venezuela.

Many of the delegates from Cuba were doctors, athletic trainers, and others serving internationalist missions in Venezuela. The Venezuelan delegation was made up of members of the Communist Youth of Venezuela, the National Youth Institute, and activists involved in the formation of the new United Socialist Party of Venezuela, initiated by Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez.

From Europe, several dozen delegates

Continued on page 7

Also Inside:

Abortion rights backers defend new clinic in Illinois

BY LAURA ANDERSON

AURORA, Illinois—Dozens of supporters of a woman's right to choose abortion defended a new Planned Parenthood clinic here last month from rightist efforts to prevent its opening. The actions, which took place on August 16 and 25, were organized by the state and local chapters of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

The Aurora facility, which is scheduled to open September 18, would be Planned Parenthood's largest full-service health center in the country.

Thirty-five abortion rights supporters picketed an August 16 meeting that drew about 300 opponents of a women's right to choose. The meeting was organized by the Pro-Life Action League and the American Life League. The American Life League is campaigning to shut down Planned Parenthood clinics nationwide.

Passing cars honked in support of the pro-choice pickets, who held signs like "Keep abortion legal" and "Keep choice yours."

"Planned Parenthood should be terrified," said Eric Scheidler, communications director for Pro-Life Action League. "We are going to destroy their building peacefully but aggressively." His group has been holding daily 24-hour prayer vigils outside the new clinic site.

On August 25, more than a thousand opponents of abortion rights marched near the new clinic carrying graphic signs. Scheidler said his group will also apply for permits to picket outside the homes of clinic workers.

Across the street dozens of abortion rights supporters held a counterdemonstration. A favorite chant on the line was, "Hey hey, what have you got to say, women's rights have got to stay!"

Many picketers said the clinic was badly needed. In order to get an abortion now, many women here have to travel about 40 miles to a clinic in Chicago.

A women's clinic here that provided abortions shut down after being evicted in October. Most hospitals and clinics in the area don't provide abortions.

"They come here to harass women," said Bonnie Grabenhofer, president of Illinois NOW. "The clinic will open," she said. "We're glad . . . abortion will be accessible and safe."



Militant/Harvey McArthur

August 16 picket in support of new Planned Parenthood clinic in Aurora, Illinois, that has come under attack by opponents of a woman's right to choose abortion.

Film documents women's gains in Cuban Revolution

Our Memory Is on the Future, *2005 documentary, directed by Octavio Cortázar, Spanish with English subtitles. The DVD is available at www.pathfinderpress.com.*

IN REVIEW

BY CHAUNCEY ROBINSON

"Women are weak, like delicate flowers."

"They are afraid of everything."

So say a group of men at the opening of the Cuban documentary *Our Memory Is on the Future*. Then the scene cuts to a woman parachuting out of a plane. Then shots of women deep-sea diving, operating heavy machinery, and holding a rifle.

The film, directed by Octavio Cortázar in collaboration with the Federation of Cuban Women, walks through the role of women in Cuban society from before the 1959 revolution to the present day. It gives an overview of advances made by women in Cuba since the revolution and includes at times humorous street conversations with Cubans on gender and equality.

The film, now available with English subtitles, is an honest film and an entertaining way to learn about the revolutionary changes in women's role in society made possible by workers and peasants taking political power.

The documentary emphasizes that if it were not for the socialist revolution, leadership attention, and popular mobilization, true gains in the struggle for women's liberation would not have been realized. It concludes that the revolution in Cuba of the exploited and oppressed is intertwined with the fight for women's equality.

Women were some of the fiercest soldiers in the 1956–58 war by workers and peasants to overthrow a U.S.-backed dictatorship. The documentary shows footage of women guerrillas and highlights the Mariana Grajales Platoon. This all-women's combat unit was named after a Black woman active in Cuba's first war of independence.

After the triumph of the revolution, women played an important role as *brigadistas* in the campaign that wiped out illiteracy in 1961. Up until then some of the young women who went into the countryside to teach peasants to read and write hadn't been allowed outside of the house without a chaperon, let alone able to take such a leading role in the transformation of society.

Cuban women were encouraged to join the workforce to break from economic dependence on a husband and to break out of the isolation of the home. The film reviews some of the measures that Cuba's communist government has taken to help in the process. Today, the film highlights, women make up 66 percent of skilled workers in Cuba, and many work in jobs long-considered only for men.

During the movie, the film crew approaches unsuspecting Cuban men and women on the street and asks them questions like, "Should a woman be a virgin when she gets married?"; "Should men raise children?"; and "Do women possess the qualities of a leader?" The interviews give an insight into the changing perceptions of women in society. The answers show that although significant advances have been made toward women's equality, there is still a ways to go. The interviews also show how this topic is being discussed by Cuban people young and old, male and female.

Our Memory Is on the Future shows what women are capable of within a socialist revolution that gets rid of the economic system that profits from sexist discrimination.

The Militant

Vol. 71/No. 34

Closing news date: September 5, 2007

Editor: Olympia Newton

Managing Editor: Paul Pederson

Washington correspondent: Sam Manuel

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Cindy Jaquith, Martín Koppel, Doug Nelson, Ben O'Shaughnessy, Jacob Perasso, and Rebecca Williamson.

Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in July, and one week in August.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. **Telephone:** (212) 244-4899 **Fax:** (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: for one-year send $35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send $65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first class (airmail), send $80.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: Send $65 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian $45 for one-year subscription to the Militant, 2238 Dundas St. West, Suite 201, Toronto, ON. Postal Code: M6R 3A9.

United Kingdom: £25 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 76 euros for one-year subscription to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: Send 400 Swedish kronor for one year to Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov, Stockholm, Sweden.

New Zealand: Send NZ$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A$50 to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

Quebec Social Forum site of nonstop discussion

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO AND BEN JOYCE

MONTREAL, Quebec—Political discussion was non-stop at the August 23–26 Quebec Social Forum here. More than 5,000 people participated in the event, held at the University of Quebec at Montreal.

The forum's theme was "Another Quebec is on the way." It included 315 workshops, 4 large evening sessions, and a final assembly. Exchanges and debates filled the university hallways from morning until night, where 60 organizations set up tables.

The vast majority of those present were Quebecois, the French-speaking nationality that make up about 80 percent of Quebec's population. But more than 10 workshops took place on immigration, reflecting the fact that the number of immigrants entering Quebec annually has nearly doubled since 1995.

About 100 people packed a workshop on "Reasonable Accommodation on the Job and the Place of Religion in Public." "Reasonable accommodation" is part of a chauvinist, anti-immigrant campaign initiated by Democratic Action of Quebec, a right-wing political party that placed second in the Quebec elections last April. The campaign includes trying to bar Muslim women from wearing headscarves at sporting events, on the job, and elsewhere.

The forum's final "Solidarity Appeal from the Social Movements" did not reject "reasonable accommodation" and instead called for a "struggle for harmonious integration of immigrants" into Quebecois society. While the statement reflected the liberal politics that dominated the forum, many people there were open to a working-class perspective.

"The most important development that points the way forward is the transformation of the working class by the arrival of hundreds of thousands of immigrants who are fighters," Joe Young, Communist League candidate in the October 10 Ontario provincial elections, told the 500 people attending the final assembly.

At the August 26 concluding rally of 1,200, the Communist League and Young Socialists contingent marched behind a banner reading "Stop all deportations! Legalize all immigrants now!" Many people expressed their support for these demands. Ghislaine Jalbert, a unionized government worker, read the banner and said, "Well, I can march behind that!"

The forum also included several workshops on mining, a major industry in Canada, including in Quebec. Four of these gave mining companies and the Canadian government a platform to justify their exploitation of miners in Canada and throughout the world. This series provoked outrage from many participants.

"Canadian mining companies are responsible for the organized theft of the natural resources of third world countries," said a woman at the closing session

Socialists participating in these workshops found interest in the *Militant's* coverage of the mine disaster in Utah and the need to organize and use union power as the only way to protect workers' lives on the job.

Many of the hundreds of young people attending were exposed to a revolutionary working-class perspective for the first time at Communist League and Young Socialists literature tables. Francis Gagnon and Ben Lefebvre came from their community college in Drummondville and are preparing a report for students at their campus.

"I found it encouraging that at least some young people took the time to come acknowledge these social issues, and discuss them at length," said Brett Collins, a member of the Young Socialists and a student at York University.

The tables of the Communist League and Young Socialists were centers of discussion throughout the event. On the second day of the forum, CTV Montreal news showed people gathered around the communist movement's main table, which featured signs demanding, "Canadian troops Out of Afghanistan Now," and "Hands off Cuba and Venezuela."

Socialists sold 39 *Militant* subscriptions, more than 200 single copies of the newspaper, and 62 books and pamphlets published and distributed by Pathfinder Press. This included 19 copies of the two most recent issues of *New International,* a magazine of Marxist politics and theory, titled: *Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun* and *Our Politics Start with the World.*

Joe Young, Katy LeRougetel and Michel Dugré contributed to this article

New York cab drivers begin 2-day strike



Militant/Dan Fein

NEW YORK, September 5—Taxi drivers across this city stopped work this morning, part of a two-day strike called by the New York Taxi Workers Alliance (NYTWA).

The main issues in the strike are the city's Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) requirement that all cabs have Global Positioning Systems (GPS) installed by October 1 and forcing cab drivers to accept credit cards.

Drivers say the GPS enables the city government to spy on them and constitutes an invasion of privacy. The five percent charge with the use of a credit card will come out of the driver's income.

"Today drivers are standing up for dignity," said Bhairavi Desai, NYTWA executive director, pictured above speaking at a press conference this morning at the Transport Workers Union hall. "We are silent no more."

Fetzum Tomovic, a driver for 5 years, told the *Militant*, "I drove 12 hours last night [before the strike began]. Then I went home to shower and I am here now willing to spend the next two days helping with the strike. We need a union to protect against the abuse of the TLC and the cops."

—DAN FEIN

Foreclosures, evictions hit Georgia workers hard

BY LISA POTASH

ATLANTA—Georgia has one of the highest rates of home mortgage "delinquency" and foreclosures in the country, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association of America.

Seventeen percent of "subprime" mortgage borrowers in this state are behind in payments. Over the past several years this category of home loans surged in popularity. Thousands of workers who previously didn't qualify for home mortgages were sold these high-interest loans.

In Georgia, when someone falls behind in mortgage payments their home can be sold on the courthouse steps in as little as 37 days after the lender starts foreclosure proceedings. Only two other states, Texas and Tennessee, have similar laws. A short stint of unemployment or a high medical expense is enough to make many workers lose their homes.

In July, foreclosure filings in Georgia were up 75 percent from the month before. Georgia's foreclosure filing rate is one for every 299 households, more than twice the national average.

Between 2000 and 2006, home foreclosures jumped 212 percent in Fulton County and 153 percent in DeKalb County, two of the major counties in the Atlanta metropolitan area. In nearby Henry County, home foreclosures are up 327 percent.

Many Georgians try to stave off home foreclosures by filing Chapter 13 bankruptcy. Most are unable to keep up with the court-ordered payment plans and lose their homes in the end. Georgia leads the United States in Chapter 13 filings.

Atlanta-based HomeBanc announced in August that it will stop making mortgage loans. The lending agency then laid off around 1,000 employees and declared bankruptcy, joining a growing list of other failing national mortgage lenders.

Meanwhile, 9,600 workers living in public housing in the Atlanta area are threatened with eviction. More than 3,200 units of permanently subsidized housing are scheduled for demolition, according to the Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless. The group reports that between 48,000 and 68,000 people in the Atlanta area were homeless at some point in 2006.

Atlanta ranks seventh in the country in percentage of families that pay more than half their income for rent, according to the National Housing Conference in Washington.

The surge in evictions includes many working people who rent their homes. On July 26, Carlos Rodriguez, 27, died after sheriff's deputies in Gwinnett County used a Taser against him. The cops had gone to his apartment complex to evict someone else living there.

In January, another man in Gwinnett county killed himself in a standoff with a SWAT team after deputies tried to serve him eviction papers at his home.

Renters make up 80 percent of the 500 evictions per month in that county.

—CALENDAR—

CANADA

Toronto

Cuba: Culture and Revolution. Thurs., Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m. *OISE Room 5-280 (5th Floor), 252 Bloor Street West, 5th floor. Tel.: (416) 654-1256.*

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

National Day of Action: Rally at Placita Olvera. Weds., Sept. 12. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. *Tel.: (323) 702-6397.* Sponsors: March 25 Coalition; Hermanidad Mexicana Trans-Nacional; CHIRLA; and others.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

End the War Now! Sat., Sept. 15, 12 p.m. *Gather at the White House. Tel.: (202) 544-3389. www.answercoalition.org.* Sponsors: ANSWER Coalition and others.

Stop the War at Home & Abroad. Sat., Sept. 29. *Tel.: (212) 633-6646. www.troopsoutnow.org.* Sponsors: Troops Out Now Coalition and others.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

FLORIDA

Miami

Why U.S. Imperialism is Waging a Multi-theater Long War. Speaker: Maggie Trowe, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Sept. 14. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: $5 dinner, $5 program. *8365 NE 2nd Ave, Suite 206. Tel.: (305) 756-4436.*

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Not One Penny, Not One Person for Washington's War! End Imperialist Occupation of Iraq Now! Speaker: Angel Lariscy, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Sept. 14. Program, 8 p.m. *168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd floor. Tel.: (973) 481-0077.*

MINNESOTA

Twin Cities

How to Fight Imperialism Today: The Cuban Example. Sun., Sept. 16. Brunch, 1 p.m.; Program, 2 p.m. Donation: $5 brunch, $5 program. *1311 1/2 E. Lake St., Minneapolis. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.*

Young Socialists join debates at conference in Venezuela

This column is written and edited by members of the Young Socialists, a revolutionary socialist youth organization. For more information contact the YS at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018; tel.: (212) 629-6649; e-mail: youngsocialists@mac.com.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN ACTION

BY BEN O'SHAUGHNESSY

CARACAS, Venezuela—Members of Young Socialists organizations in the United States, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand exchanged experiences with hundreds of other youth at an August 23–25 conference here marking the 60th anniversary of the World Festivals of Youth and Students (see front-page article).

The conference included workshops on three topics: youth employment and labor rights, the fight against imperialist aggression and military bases, and education and imperialism's ideological offensive. Nearly 100 delegates attended each. YS members joined the discussions in these workshops, speaking from the floor about struggles by working people and youth in the imperialist countries in which they live.

During the seminar on education, Annalucia Vermunt from the YS in New Zealand explained the class character of education under capitalism and why communists fight for lifetime education for all. She spoke about the Australian government's attacks against Aborigines, tying welfare payments to school enrollment. After the seminar, several delegates asked Vermunt for more information on the situation facing working people and youth in the Pacific.



Militant/Olympia Newton

Audience at August 25 workshop on imperialist aggression and foreign military bases, part of activities in Caracas, Venezuela, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the World Festivals of Youth and Students. Young Socialists from three countries participated in the activities.

"We are engaged in the struggle for socialist education, education for all, a lifetime education," said a representative of the Union of Young Communists of Cuba (UJC), from the floor at the workshop. "The only debt Cuban students have is to become better students."

In each of the three seminars, delegates from Cuba spoke from their experience living in a country where working people made socialist a revolution. They explained that, as young people there, they now have the task to defend and deepen gains already won.

"Iraq and Afghanistan are just two theaters of a multi-front war that Washington is waging today," said Olympia Newton, representing the Young Socialists in the United States, during the discussion period. "This is a decades-long perspective for U.S. imperialism, and no wing of the U.S. ruling class has an alternative course." She explained that the top contenders for the Democratic Party presidential nomination, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, call for reducing troop levels in Iraq in order to send more troops to Afghanistan and other fronts.

"The YS will join antiwar marches in September demanding the immediate withdrawal of all troops from Iraq, Afghanistan, and anywhere else they are stationed, and 'Not one penny, not one person for Washington's wars,'" she said.

While in Venezuela, Newton and Ben O'Shaughnessy, the organizer of the National Steering Committee of the YS in the United States, were also invited to speak at a western Caracas leadership meeting of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) on the U.S. class struggle.

When asked about the response by the YS and Socialist Workers Party to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, O'Shaughnessy responded that young socialists and socialist workers have campaigned to tell the truth about Katrina and its aftermath.

"Hurricane Katrina was not a 'natural disaster' but a social catastrophe rooted in capitalism, a system that puts profits before human needs," said O'Shaughnessy. "We point to the internationalist example set by the Cuban Revolution, which offered to send hundreds of doctors to New Orleans, an act of solidarity to working people in the United States. This was ignored by the U.S. rulers."

PSUV leaders at the meeting also asked about the YS's activities to free five Cuban revolutionaries locked up in U.S. jails on frame-up charges. O'Shaughnessy described campus meetings, picket lines, and other educational efforts the YS has been involved in to win their release.

Cuban organizations have called for a period of increased activity to win the release of the five from September 12 to October 8. Newton and O'Shaughnessy said the SWP and YS will continue to join with others to organize events across the U.S. to help win their freedom.

1.1 million face foreclosure

Continued from front page

tions of credit losses," Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke announced in a speech yesterday. The losses "have not been confined to mortgage markets," he said. "Diminished demand for loans and bonds to finance highly leveraged transactions has increased some banks' concerns. He noted that these banks "have become more protective of their liquidity."

U.S. president George Bush gave a speech the same day promising measures to "help American families keep their homes." Bush outlined a few proposals to allow debt-burdened homeowners to refinance their mortgages and keep paying. "It's not the government's job to bail out speculators, or those who made the decision to buy a home they knew they could never afford," he said.

The housing boom reached a peak in 2005, as the market for "subprime" home loans hit a fever pitch. High-interest loans such as adjustable rate mortgages—which start out with a few years of interest-only payments then "reset" to substantially larger payments—represented a growing share of the mortgage market.

"The newer mortgage products, such as 'piggyback,' 'liar loans' and 'no doc loans' accounted for 47 percent of total home mortgage loans issued last year," financial commentator John Mauldin noted in his August 17 online newsletter. "At the start of the decade, they were estimated to be less than two percent of total mortgage loans. As a result, homeowners have never been more leveraged: the average amount of debt as a percentage of a property's value has increased to 86.5 percent in 2006 from 78 percent in 2000."

Thousands of working people who had previously been denied credit purchased homes with these loans in the last several years. Many are now seeing their mortgage payments balloon beyond their income as the price of their home sinks.

Many more are expected to lose their homes in the coming months.

"We have just seen $197 billion of mortgage resets so far this year," Mauldin

Continued on page 9

Workers in Boston protest immigration sweep

Continued from front page

a Department of Homeland Security official offered to sell work authorization cards and residency cards to undocumented immigrants.

Ninety people attended a community meeting at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in East Boston August 30 to protest. Gladys Vega from the Chelsea Collaborative and Edwin Argueta from the East Boston Ecumenical Community Council chaired the meeting.

"It is an excuse ICE is giving that they are only targeting those with criminal backgrounds," said Lucy Pineda, of Latinos Unidos en Massachusetts.

"We have to send a message to state and federal government people that people come to this country to work hard," she said, adding, "we do not condone criminal activity."

"The real criminals are in the White House," said Lyn Meza, from Chelsea United Against the War.

"The target of these raids is not gang members, but us," said Betsy Farley, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Boston City Council in District 1, from the floor. "All working people, no matter what our country of origin, should demand an end to the raids and immediate legalization of all immigrants.

"We need to organize a broad public action response against these raids. Their tactic is to win acceptance of these police actions because they are supposedly targeting criminals," said Farley. "We can't fall into their trap."

Representatives from Roca, Inc.; Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition; and the Boston May Day Coalition also spoke at the meeting.

John Willshire Carrera of Greater Boston Legal Services, said a March ICE raid on a New Bedford factory backfired on the agency. ICE agents jailed dozens of women with children solely for immigration violations. After public outcry they released more than 200 of the 361 arrested. Since then, Willshire said, ICE has conducted its raids in the Boston area under cover of going after criminals.

News of the August 28 sweep became public when an immigrant rights activist, Tito Meza, on his way to work that morning saw ICE agents confronting someone at a local subway stop. He attempted to take pictures and was threatened with arrest. He called WUNR 1600 AM, a local radio station with broadcasts in Spanish and other languages. His call was broadcast live as he reported what the ICE agents were doing. Throughout the morning people called into the radio station to report the location of the agents.

MBTA Deputy Chief Paul MacMillan said a transit cop participated in the operation in East Boston. "They came up empty after going to three houses," he told the *Boston Globe*. "They couldn't find who they were looking for."

An East Boston man who only identified himself as Eric told the *Boston Globe* that immigration cops entered his brother's apartment with a warrant for a man who no longer lived in the building. They arrested his brother, a permanent resident from El Salvador, after they discovered he had been convicted of a minor alcohol-related offense three years earlier.

At Sterlingwear, a UNITE-HERE organized sewing factory in East Boston, workers stopped work when the WUNR reported, incorrectly, that ICE was on their way to the plant.

About 200 attended today's rally. Speakers included Rev. Walter Coleman, pastor of the Chicago church that gave sanctuary to former airplane cleaner and immigrant rights activist Elvira Arellano, who was deported last month; Gladys Vega of the Chelsea Collaborative; Lucy Pineda of Latinos Unidos en Massachusetts; and Tito Mezo of Proyecto Hondureño.

ON THE PICKET LINE

Miners in Chile strike Canadian-owned gold and silver mine

August 31—Contract workers at the Canadian-owned El Peñon mine stopped production today to demand higher pay, health insurance, the construction of a cafeteria and rest area, and a reduction in work hours, reported the *Santiago Times*.

"We arrive home at 3 a.m. and then we have to turn around and leave to go back to work at 1 p.m. the same day," said union president Guillermo Grancke.

El Peñón is a high-grade gold and silver mine known as one of the lowest-cost producers in the world, reported the *Santiago Times*.

The work stoppage is one in a series of actions by workers and students that have taken place around the country in recent months to demand better working conditions, and against government austerity measures.

Thousands marched August 29 in Santiago, the country's capital, to demand higher wages, better health, education, and other services. The march, called by the country's largest labor association the Federation of Workers, was attacked by the police. Dozens were wounded and 750 arrested.

"Never mind how just the demands are, we will not tolerate violence." said President Michelle Bachelet. She said, however, that the action was a warning signal "that workers need better conditions."

—Róger Calero



Militant/Ted Leonard

Janitors march through Boston for new contract August 25

Boston janitors march for contract with higher pay, health care

BOSTON, August 25—Hundreds of janitors, members of Service Employees International Union Local 615, marched through downtown today after voting to strike if they don't reach an agreement before their contract expires August 31.

The union local represents about 16,000 workers that clean buildings in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, including about 1,000 state buildings.

They are demanding a raise from about $10 per hour, more full-time work, and better health care. Many janitors only get part-time work.

The janitors waged a month-long strike the last time their contract expired in 2002.

—Ted Leonard

ICE raids Ohio plant, arrests 160

BY RÓGER CALERO

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) cops raided a chicken processing plant in Fairfield, Ohio, August 28, and arrested more than 160 immigrant workers.

More than 300 local and federal cops descended on the Koch Foods plant. They blocked the exits, forcing some workers to hide, including inside a subzero freezer. A few had to be treated for hypothermia after they were found, according to an ICE spokesperson and others on the scene.

The raid was the largest in the Cincinnati area this year, and among the 20 largest in the country, according to the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

The *Cincinnati Post* quoted Jayme Mejía, who spent the morning at the plant trying to find out what happened to her husband's aunt, who worked there. "I received a phone call to go to the house and get her paperwork," Mejía said. "I gave it to the officer and that's it." She was later told by a cop that her aunt might have already been on a bus that left for an "undisclosed location."

Federal agents also simultaneously raided Koch's offices in Chicago where they took records as part of a two-year investigation on the company's hiring practices.

Twenty of the workers arrested have been charged with falsifying identities.

A group of immigrant rights supporters protested the arrests at an ICE news conference held following the operation. "These raids are an outrage," Dan LaBotz, a member of the Coalition for the Rights and Dignity of Immigrants, told the press. "These are working people."

A legal petition has been filed on behalf of the detained workers to try to prevent the immigration agency from moving them from Ohio or deporting them before they can meet with their lawyers.

Minnesota meat packers expand fight to defend union against company attack

BY REBECCA WILLIAMSON

SOUTH ST. PAUL, Minnesota—"The company keeps pushing production at the cost of the health and safety of workers in the plant," reads the opening sentence of the latest issue of the *Workers' Voice*. The newsletter is produced by members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 789 who work at Dakota Premium Foods, a beef slaughterhouse here.

The newsletter reports that in one week two workers—Samuel Farley and Antonio Gómez—suffered stabbing injuries on the production line, "which could have been prevented with proper safety measures or a slower line speed."

The union contract at the plant expired at the end of June. A few weeks before the expiration date two pro-company workers began circulating petitions "to remove the union." The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), which decides if there will be a vote or not, has yet to make a decision. The union says the company-backed petition was illegal.

Workers at the plant waged a two-year battle including a sit-down strike to forge the union in the plant. They won their first contract in 2002.

Local 789 activists are organizing to visiting every union member who works at the plant.

Last week, the *Workers' Voice* reports, management called Farley, who is the last remaining union steward on the cut floor, into the office "five times in two days for the letting pieces go down the line." The newsletter says there were not enough workers assigned to perform the job with Farley.

"The attack on me is really an attack on workers in the plant and the union," Farley told the *Militant*. "It comes in the context of a company attempt to break the union. The company is keeping the other steward in the boning area, Miguel Gutiérrez, out of the plant on the basis of a false excuse." Farley filed a grievance with the union against the company for this harassment and the union filed an unfair labor practices charge with the NLRB.

"The company is trying to work us like dogs," Farley continued. "We workers are cutting up cattle at a faster pace than anytime in the eight years I've worked here."

Other workers confirm that the intensity of the production speed is a major issue.

Rosendo Salgado, who works on the production line where beef chuck meat is deboned, said workers on that line are being pressured "to do the job of seven people with only four to five people."

Rebecca Williamson is a trimmer at Dakota Premium Foods and a member of UFCW Local 789. Tom Fiske contributed to this article.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT
25 CENTS
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

September 17, 1982

NORTHERN ZELAYA PROVINCE, Nicaragua—A small wooden cross marks the spot where Donald Espinoza was gunned down.

Espinoza, a member of the Sandinista Defense Committee and an employee of the Ministry of Construction Heavy Equipment Depot near the remote village of Rio Iyás, is the most recent victim of U.S. imperialism's undeclared war against Nicaragua.

Seventy counterrevolutionaries, part of the army Washington is using to turn this area into a battlefield against the Nicaraguan revolution, had entered the depot with powerful explosives.

A mammoth engineering and construction project was Washington's target here.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

September 16, 1957

A civil rights leader in Birmingham, Alabama was the victim of a brutal racist attack when he attempted to escort four Negro children into Phillips High School September 9. They sought to test segregation in the state's public school system. Rev. F. L. Shuttlesworth was severely beaten by a white gang wielding brass knuckles, chains and clubs, as he alighted from the car in which he had brought the children to the school entrance.

The previous week a Negro, Judge Aaron, had been brutally tortured and castrated by Ku Klux Klansmen who told their victim to warn Rev. Shuttlesworth that "the same thing will happen to Negros who try to enroll their children in white schools." Three of the Klansmen were arrested and two confessed to this crime.

THE MILITANT
Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

September 17, 1932

The fourth winter of crisis is at hand. The fourth winter of hunger and starvation for millions of unemployed.

While the press speaks of an upturn the bosses are giving the workers an introduction to the fourth winter by a new wave of wage cuts in the basic industries.

The operators and "union leaders" of the anthracite region met in New York to discuss a 20 to 25 percent wage cut. The railroads were so successful in their "United Front" in the last 10 percent wage cut that they want to increase it by another 20 percent cut. The ship owners insist that a big wage cut is necessary if they are going to compete with other shipping lines.

‘Those who exploit Africa and Europe are the same’

First time in English: Thomas Sankara on canceling Third World debt

The speech excerpted below was given in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at a conference of member states of the Organization of African Unity on July 29, 1987, by Thomas Sankara, the leader of a 1983–87 revolution in Burkina Faso (see front page article). In it, Sankara proposes a broad campaign to win support among working people in Africa and in the imperialist world for cancellation of the Third World debt. The speech is one of five items never before published in English that will appear in expanded editions of Thomas Sankara Speaks*, to be published early October.*

BY THOMAS SANKARA

Mr. President;

Heads of delegations:

I would like at this moment for us to take up the other question that plagues us, the question of the debt, the question of Africa’s economic situation. As much as peace, resolving this is an important condition for our survival. . . .

We believe analysis of the debt should begin with its roots. The roots of the debt go back to the beginning of colonialism. Those who lent us the money were those who colonized us. They were the same people who ran our states and our economies. It was the colonizers who put Africa into debt to the financiers—their brothers and cousins. This debt has nothing to do with us. That’s why we cannot pay it.

The debt is another form of neocolonialism, one in which the colonialists have transformed themselves into technical assistants. Actually, it would be more accurate to say technical assassins. They’re the ones who advised us on sources of financing, on underwriters of loans. As if there were men whose loans are enough to create development in other people’s countries. These underwriters were recommended to us, suggested to us. They gave us enticing financial documents and presentations. We took on loans of fifty years, sixty years, and even longer. That is, we were led to commit our peoples for fifty years and more.

The debt in its present form is a cleverly organized reconquest of Africa under which our growth and development are regulated by stages and norms totally alien to us. It is a reconquest that turns each of us into a financial slave—or just plain slave—of those who had the opportunity, the craftiness, the deceitfulness to invest funds in our countries that we are obliged to repay. Some tell us to pay the debt. This is not a moral question. Paying or not paying is not a question of so-called honor at all.



Ernest Harsch

“What is saved by not paying the debt will be used for development,” says Sankara. “We can use Africa’s immense latent resources to develop the continent, because our soil and subsoil are rich.” Above, peasants rally in Pibaoré, Burkina Faso, October 1987, behind a banner reading, “Farmers of Burkina Faso: hoes yesterday, hoes today, machinery tomorrow.”

Mr. President:

We listened to and applauded the prime minister of Norway when she spoke right here. She said, and she’s a European, that the debt as a whole cannot be repaid. I just want to develop her remarks further by saying that none of the debt can be repaid. The debt cannot be repaid, first of all, because, if we don’t pay, the lenders won’t die. Of that you can be sure. On the other hand, if we do pay, we are the ones who will die. Of that you can be equally sure. Those who led us into debt were gambling, as if they were in a casino. As long as they were winning, there was no problem. Now that they’re losing their bets, they demand repayment. There is talk of a crisis. No, Mr. President. They gambled. They lost. Those are the rules of the game. Life goes on. [*Applause*]

We cannot repay the debt because we have nothing to pay it with. We cannot repay the debt because it’s not our responsibility. We cannot repay the debt because, on the contrary, the others owe us something that the greatest riches can never repay—a debt of blood. . . .

When people talk to us today about economic crisis, they forget to mention that the crisis didn’t appear overnight. It has been with us for a long time, and it will deepen more and more as the popular masses become increasingly aware of their rights in face of the exploiters.

There is a crisis today because the masses refuse to allow wealth to be concentrated in the hands of a few individuals. There is a crisis because a few individuals hold colossal sums of money in foreign banks—enough to develop Africa. There is a crisis because in face of these individual fortunes, whose

Continued on page 7



Militant/Marla Puziss

Meeting of neighborhood Committees for Defense of the Revolution in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, August 1985. Mobilizations such as these during Burkinabè revolution were part of “the popular masses becoming increasingly aware of their rights in face of the exploiters.”

New Sankara books coming soon

Continued from front page

desert region, a massive healthcare and immunization campaign that eradicated parasite-induced river blindness, and a literacy campaign in the country’s indigenous languages. The government took measures to combat the centuries-old subjugation of women and encouraged them to organize and fight for their emancipation.

The revolutionary government extended solidarity to those resisting imperialist oppression and exploitation around the world: anti-apartheid fighters in South Africa and others across the African continent; the fight of Palestinians and the people of Western Sahara for their homeland; and the revolutionary government brought to power by workers and peasants in Nicaragua in 1979. Sankara spoke in New York City’s Harlem to show support for African-Americans’ fight against racist oppression and other struggles by working people in the United States.

A week before his death in a counter-revolutionary military coup, Sankara paid tribute to Ernesto Che Guevara, the Argentine-born Cuban revolutionary. “Che Guevara,” said Sankara, “became, above all, a citizen of the free world—the free world that together we are in the process of building. This is why we can say Che Guevara is also African and Burkinabè.”

What’s new?

The new English edition of *Thomas Sankara Speaks* includes five items by Sankara never before published in English, including an interview never before published in any language. That item will also appear in the new French edition. The contents of the English book, first published just a few months after Sankara’s death in 1987, are now identical to the French, whose first edition appeared (under the title *Oser inventer l’avenir)* in 1988. Substantial improvements have been made to the English translation, as well.

In addition, both books now include 38 pages of photographs, three pages of maps, and a chart with basic information on Burkina Faso during the revolution. A new chronology, glossary, and index help to place the revolution in the context of political developments more broadly in Africa and the world, making it more accessible to readers unfamiliar with events, places, and people mentioned in the book. The print is larger and more readable.

A full color promotional flyer on the new books is available at www.pathfinderpress.com.

Int’l youth conference

Continued from front page

represented groups in Belarus, Cyprus, Portugal, France, Hungary, Greece, Germany, and the United Kingdom. About a dozen came from Africa, including from Western Sahara, Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Angola, and Lesotho. From the Asia-Pacific region, delegations came from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, north Korea, New Zealand, and the Philippines. The four Middle Eastern countries represented were Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt.

History of world youth festivals

“This seminar promoted exchanges between youth and students to reinforce solidarity and friendship among anti-imperialist youth in the tradition of the festival movement,” said WFDY president Madeira at the closing ceremony.

The first World Festival of Youth and Students took place in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1947, in the wake of World War II. Until 1989 most such festivals took place in Eastern European countries where capitalist property relations had been overturned, and participation was largely controlled by youth organizations of the Stalinist Communist parties.

“After the change in the world relationship of forces, we asked whether there would there be any festivals again,” said Iraklis Tsavaridis, former WFDY president and secretary of the World Peace Council, at an August 24 plenary session.

At a 1995 gathering in Havana called “Cuba Lives,” Tsavaridis said, “Youth responded to the call for international solidarity, and we saw it would be possible to revive the festival movement, and in 1997 the festival was hosted in Havana.”

After the collapse of the Stalinist apparatuses in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Cuban youth organizations and revolutionary forces in other countries worked to draw into WFDY, and the World Youth Festivals, youth groups whose participation had previously been limited.

The 1997 Havana festival, attended by 12,000, was marked by its political openness and anti-imperialist character.





Militant/Ben O’Shaughnessy (above), Olympia Newton (left)

Above, delegates at August 23 opening ceremony of conference in Caracas, Venezuela, marking the 60th anniversary of the World Festival of Youth and Students. Left, Irma González, daughter of René González, one of five Cuban revolutionaries held in U.S. prisons, spoke about international campaign for their release at August 25 closing session. In background, Miguel Madeira, president of the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

Many representatives of national liberation struggles in Africa and the Middle East and other revolutionists participated for the first time.

Harchand Singh, a longtime leader of WFDY from the Communist Party of India, noted that starting at the Havana festival, an International Solidarity Fund was established to facilitate attendance by reducing travel and other costs, especially for delegates from semicolonial countries.

The next two festivals took place in Algeria in 2001 and Venezuela in 2005. They were similar in political character and openness to the Havana gathering.

At the plenary panel here, other speakers described how the founding of WFDY and the festival movement were marked by the outcome of the second world war.

Jerónimo Carrera, president of the Communist Party of Venezuela, who attended the 1947 festival in Prague, noted the political context at the time. “We did not appreciate what the bombing of Hiroshima had meant. When news came that Tokyo had surrendered, we thought it [the bombing] was good,” he said. “It shortened the war—but at what price?”

Annalucia Vermunt of the Young Socialists in New Zealand responded to this assessment from the floor. She pointed out that the U.S. imperialist bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was a barbaric assault that prepared the way for new wars. “There was no peace,” she said. “The bombing was intended as a warning to the peoples of the world. Washington was ready to march on Asia, but the resistance of the toilers in China, Indonesia, Korea, India, and the soldiers within the U.S. imperialist army stayed their hand.”

The majority of contributions from the floor at the plenary focused on the importance of the political character of the Havana, Algiers, and Caracas festivals as gatherings that brought together thousands of youth under an anti-imperialist banner. Several delegates explained how these festivals have provided an avenue for those resisting imperialism to meet and exchange ideas and experiences. Many spoke about the need to begin planning for the next world youth festival, projected for 2009.

The conference also included cultural activities, a fair featuring literature from WFDY member organizations, and workshops on education, employment, and struggles against foreign military bases.

An International Consultative Meeting on the 17th World Festival of Youth and Students followed the seminar. Nearly 100 people from 50 organizations attended. The meeting empowered the WFDY leadership to investigate possible host countries. It resolved to discuss further the next festival site at a WFDY leadership meeting in Portugal in February.

‘With the support of all we can avoid paying the debt’

Continued from page 6

owners we can name, the popular masses refuse to live in ghettos and slums. There is a crisis because people everywhere refuse to stay in Soweto when Johannesburg is directly opposite them. That is, there is struggle, and the deepening of this struggle leads to worries among the holders of financial power.

They ask us today to collaborate in the search for stability. Stability to the benefit of the holders of financial power. Stability to the detriment of the popular masses. No, we can’t be accomplices in this. No, we can’t go along with those who suck the blood of our peoples and who live off the sweat of our peoples. We can’t go along with their murderous ventures.

Mr. President:

We hear talk of clubs—the Club of Rome, the Club of Paris, the Club of Everywhere. We hear talk of the Group of Five, of Seven, of the Group of Ten, perhaps the Group of One Hundred. Who knows what else? It’s normal that we too have our own club, our own group. Starting today, let’s make Addis Ababa a similar seat, the center from which will come a breath of fresh air, the Club of Addis Ababa. We have the duty to create the united front of Addis Ababa against the debt. This is the only way we can say today that, by refusing to pay, we’re not setting out on a course of war but, on the contrary, a fraternal course of explaining the facts as they are.

What’s more, the popular masses of Europe are not opposed to the popular masses of Africa. Those who want to exploit Africa are the same ones as those who exploit Europe. We have a common enemy. Our Club of Addis Ababa must tell both sides that the debt cannot be paid. When we say the debt cannot be paid we are in no way against morality, dignity, or respect for one’s word. It’s our view that we don’t have the same morals as the other side. The rich and the poor don’t share the same morals. The Bible and the Koran can’t serve in the same way those who exploit the people and those who are exploited. There will have to be two editions of the Bible and two editions of the Koran. [*Applause*]

We can’t accept their morals. We can’t accept their talking to us about dignity. We can’t accept their talking to us about the merits of those who pay and about a loss of confidence in those who don’t pay. On the contrary, we must explain that it’s normal these days to favor the view that the richest people are the biggest thieves. A poor man who steals commits no more than larceny, a petty crime, just to survive, out of necessity. The rich are the ones who rob the tax revenue and customs duties. They are the ones who exploit the people.

Mr. President:

My proposal does not aim simply to provoke or to create a spectacle. I am trying to say what each of us thinks and hopes for. Who here doesn’t want to see the debt written off, pure and simple? Anyone who doesn’t want that can leave, take his plane, and go directly to the World Bank to pay it off. [*Applause]* . . .

Mr. President:

This is not a provocation. I hope you can very wisely offer us solutions. I hope our conference sees the necessity of stating clearly that we cannot pay the debt. Not in a warmongering or warlike spirit. This is to avoid our going off to be killed one at a time. If Burkina Faso alone were to refuse to pay the debt, I wouldn’t be at the next conference. On the other hand, with the support of all, which I greatly need [*Applause*], with the support of all, we can avoid paying. And if we can avoid paying, we can devote our meager resources to our development.

I would like to close by saying that when we tell countries we’re not going to pay the debt, we can assure them that what is saved won’t be spent on prestige projects. We don’t want any more of those. What is saved will be used for development. In particular we will avoid going into debt to buy arms. Because an African country that buys arms can only be doing so to use them against an African country. What African country here can arm itself to defend against the nuclear bomb? No country is capable of that, from the best armed to the least armed. Every time an African country buys a weapon, it’s for use against another African country. It’s not for use against a European country. It’s not for use against an Asian country. So in preparing the resolution on the debt we must also find a solution to the question of armaments. . . .

We can also use Africa’s immense latent resources to develop the continent, because our soil and subsoil are rich. We have the means to do that and we have an immense market, a vast market from north to south, east to west. We have sufficient intellectual capacities to create technology and science, or at least to adopt it wherever we find it.

Mr. President:

Let’s assemble this united front of Addis Ababa against the debt. Let’s organize so that beginning in Addis Ababa we make the decision to limit the arms race between weak and poor countries. The clubs and swords we buy are of no use. Let’s make sure that the African market is a market for Africans. Let’s produce in Africa, transform in Africa, consume in Africa. Produce what we need and consume what we produce, in place of importing it.

Burkina Faso has come to show you the cotton produced in Burkina Faso, woven in Burkina Faso, sewn in Burkina Faso to clothe the Burkinabè. My delegation and I were clothed by our weavers, our peasants. Not a single thread comes from Europe or America. [*Applause*] I’m not here to put on a fashion show; I simply want to say that we should undertake to live as Africans. It is the only way to live free and to live in dignity.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Homeland or death, we will win!

[*Ovation*]

Ireland: immigrants, women swell workforce ranks

BY TONY HUNT

The working class in Ireland has grown rapidly in recent years and now includes greater numbers of immigrants and women, according to recent government statistics. These trends are true for both the Republic of Ireland and British-occupied northern Ireland.

According to the Dublin government's 2006 census, the workforce south of the border increased by 280,600—or 17 percent—between 2002 and 2006. Immigrants accounted for half that increase and now constitute one in eight of the 2 million employed in the country. According to BBC, immigrants number around 10 percent of the Irish population.

The statistics also show a sharp rise over the last quarter century in the percentage of women who are part of the workforce—from 30 percent in 1981 to 53 percent in 2006. Over the same period women describing their role as "looking after home/family" fell from 55 to 22 percent.

Underpinning these developments has been the pace of capitalist development in the once predominantly agricultural country. The census states that farming now accounts for less than 5 percent of employment, compared to 50 percent in 1926.

"Foreign Population soaring in Mayo towns" was a recent front-page headline in the *Western People*, a newspaper





Above: A calling card stand in Dublin, Ireland, serves immigrants from Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe. Right: Picket line of striking nurses, members of the Irish Nurses Organization, earlier this year reflects the influx of immigrants and women into the Irish labor force.

in the western rural county of Mayo. Thirty-six percent of the population of Ballyhaunis, a town there, was born abroad, it reports. Many of these immigrants work in a local meat plant. Immigrants also comprise a large percentage of the workforce at another meat plant in Mayo County, in the town of Ballinrobe.

A large number of the new workers in Ireland come from Eastern European countries that joined the European Union (EU) in 2005, especially Poland and Lithuania. These country's citizens have the right to work in Ireland.

Other nationalities have been drawn in too. According to BBC, Gort, a town in the western county of Galway, is one-third Brazilian. Many of these workers are undocumented, and a number have been deported. Those originally from China, Nigeria, and elsewhere in Africa are also part of the expanding working class in Ireland.

Dublin's evening newspaper now publishes a weekly Polish-language supplement. That city's main department store employs someone full-time to communicate with Chinese-speaking workers and shoppers. In June, a former asylum seeker from Nigeria, Rotimi Adebari, 43, became the country's first Black mayor, in the town of Portlaoise.

The pattern is similar across the border in British-controlled northern Ireland. According to Ulster Television, the number of immigrants working in northern Ireland doubled in 2006. The majority of these immigrants are from Poland, as well as Portugal and East Timor. These workers are recruited to work in meat and other food industries, agriculture, and engineering. Some 8,000 Chinese live in Northern Ireland. Hong Kong–born Anna Lo, 56, was elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly in March. She is the first person of Chinese descent to be elected to a parliament in the United Kingdom.

Conditions of immigrant workers

In a "Quarterly Labour Market Commentary" published in March, Dublin's Training and Employment Authority admitted that immigrant workers "have been earning considerably less than their Irish counterparts." In common with capitalists around the world, Dublin's rulers have used immigration to fuel their profit drive.

Part of this is maintaining a second-class status for the new arrivals. In June 2004, the Dublin government organized a referendum on a constitutional amendment restricting the right to citizenship. Since 1998, anyone born on the island of Ireland has had this right. The referendum passed. Citizenship is now restricted to those born in Ireland with at least one Irish parent or one who has lived in the country for three of the previous four years.

In August 2006 Dublin announced an "Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill." The bill is now being discussed in parliament. The bill makes provisions for summary arrest and deportation of undocumented immigrants and would require all immigrants from countries not in the EU to carry identity cards with details of residence permits on a biometric strip.

Last year Michael McDowell, minister of justice at the time, accused asylum seekers of coming to Ireland with "spurious stories." The leader of the Labour Party in Ireland, Patrick Rabitte, called for a "work permit regime" for workers immigrating from EU countries. "There are 40 million or so Poles, so it is an issue we have to look at," he said.

Racist attacks have accompanied the government's anti-immigrant measures. Late last year Zimbabwean Mapfumo Chadamoyo was beaten by a gang in Dublin. According to a survey published in the May 30 *Irish Times*, 35 percent of recent immigrants in general and 53 percent of African immigrants reported some form of harassment. In the north also there has been a rise in racist attacks.

The Immigration Control Platform, a group which campaigns solely to restrict immigration, ran three candidates in elections for the Dublin parliament last May. In the town of Swinford in Mayo County, a group called "Parents Action" calls on people to demand they be served by Irish-born staff at private functions in hotels and restaurants, "out of solidarity with Irish children."

In late July, 57 people of the Roma nationality living in a camp at Ballymun near Dublin, were rounded up by the Irish police and deported to Romania.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 4229 S. Central Ave. Zip: 90011. Tel: (323) 233-9372. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net **San Francisco:** 3926 Mission St. Zip: 94112. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf @sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 8365 NE 2nd Ave. #206. Mailing address: P.O. Box 381395. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 756-4436. E-mail: miamiswp@bellsouth.net

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 1146 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd. SW. Zip: 30310. Mailing address: P.O. Box 162515, Zip: 30321. Tel: (404) 758-2151. E-mail: swpatlanta@bellsouth.net

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 3557 S. Archer Ave. Zip: 60609. Tel: (773) 890-1190. E-mail: Chicagoswp@sbcglobal.net

IOWA: Des Moines: 3707 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 255-1707. E-mail: swpdesmoines@qwest.net

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 13 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@verizon.net

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis: 1311 1/2 E. Lake St. Zip: 55407. Tel: (612) 729-1205. E-mail: tcswp@qwest.net

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd Floor. Zip: 07104. Tel: (973) 481-0077. E-mail: swpnewark@optonline.net

NEW YORK: **Albany**: Tel: (518) 929-4786. E-mail: youngsocialists518@gmail.com **Manhattan**: 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@mac.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 188 W. Wyoming Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 455-2682. E-mail: philaswp@verizon.net **Pittsburgh:** 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 225. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 365-1090. E-mail: PittsburghSWP @verizon.net

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 688-4919. E-mail: swp.houston1@ sbcglobal.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3717 B Georgia Ave. NW, Ground Floor. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 536-5080. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: seattleswp@speakeasy.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

ONTARIO: Toronto: 2238 Dundas St. W., #201, Postal code M6R 3A9. Tel: (416) 535-9140. E-mail: cltoronto@bellnet.ca

FRANCE

Paris: P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37. E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885. E-mail: clauck@xtra.co.nz

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: kfstockholm@tele2.se

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: 020-7613-3855. E-mail: cllondon@onetel.com

SCOTLAND: Edinburgh: Second Floor, 105 Hanover St. Postal code: EH2 1DJ. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cl.edinburgh@ btinternet.com

EDITORIAL

Behind deflating housing bubble

The deflation of the bubble of home mortgage debt is a product of the long-term economic crisis of world capitalism. It does not stem from bad lending practices but rather the lawful workings of the system itself.

In the absence of new markets to sell their goods, capitalists in the United States and other countries have faced a tightening competitive squeeze for more than three decades. They can no longer turn profit at the same rate from the direct exploitation of labor to produce saleable goods.

To counter this trend, the owners of capital have turned increasingly to speculation. A mountain of debt—tied up in countless forms of betting on paper values—has been the result.

The upturn in the business cycle from 1991 to 2001 was marked by such speculation. While stock prices rose a blistering 225 percent between 1994 and 2000, U.S. gross domestic product climbed just 25 percent.

Corporate lending by big banks took place at a furious pace. But only a small portion of those fund went to expand production. The big majority instead became casino chips in high-stakes Wall Street gambles.

As the technology bubble of the 1990s collapsed, the housing bubble continued to inflate.

Millions—from workers who had previously been denied credit to those seeking "easy money" by buying "investment homes"—have been drawn in. Many bought new homes, and many more took out loans on existing homes. Seven years ago the average outstanding debt on housing was 78 percent of the value—by last year it had risen to nearly 87 percent.

As long as everyone kept paying and home prices kept going up the credit flowed more freely and the bubble kept inflating. As of 2004, home prices had risen 40 percent faster than the rate of inflation over the previous eight years. But now millions are facing ruinous debt.

The capitalists bragged that the "miracle" on Wall Street was due in part to computers and the Internet increasing labor productivity. But this is false.

Meat packers fighting to defend their union at Dakota Premium Foods in Minnesota and coal miners across the country facing life-threatening conditions on the job every day know the reality of this "productivity miracle."

The bosses' productivity gains are the result of their sucking more wealth out of the working class. They have lowered wages and cut benefits. They have sped up production at the expense of workers' lives and limbs.

At the center of it all has been an offensive against the unions. The percentage of workers organized in unions has declined to 12 percent from more than 25 percent in the 1950s.

Workers can gain no individual protection or guarantees from the capitalist system. The key to defending ourselves as a class from the ruinous effects of capitalist economic crises begins with the fight to organize and use union power—the main defensive tool of the working class.

Strengthening the fighting capacity and self-confidence of the working class is key to forging a movement capable of leading workers and farmers to take political power. Only on that basis can a world be built where human solidarity rules, not the dog-eat-dog greed of the bosses.

Home foreclosures

Continued from page 4

wrote August 2, referring to the point in an adjustable rate loan where the payments shoot up. "The first six months of next year will see more than the total for 2007, or $521 billion. This suggests to me that the number of foreclosures is due to rise dramatically."

Sections of the middle class also bought such low-payment, high-risk loans for "investment homes." With little money down, they thought this was an opportunity to make relatively easy money, reselling them as housing values increased.

Between 21 and 32 percent of the loan defaults in California, Florida, Arizona and Nevada are on "investment homes" that are sitting unoccupied and losing value, the Mortgage Bankers Association reports.

Working-class and middle-class debtors aren't the only ones affected by the home mortgage crisis. The owners of U.S. capital, seeking profit rates they cannot obtain through investment in production of saleable goods, have increasingly turned to stocks, bonds, and myriad forms of speculative capital investment, and are sitting on a mountain of debt.

Since the early 1990s, banks, hedge funds, and investment firms began pouring money into bundles of debts—home loans, business loans, car loans, credit card debt—pooled together by the lender. Agencies such as Moody's and Standard and Poor's gave them ratings and they were sold like stocks. As the housing market ascended, the ratings got higher, the gambles riskier, the credit more free-flowing, and the profits larger. Now a number of these funds are posting big losses.

In June the investment banker Bear Stearns announced that it was suspending redemptions on its impressively titled High-Grade Structured Credit Strategies Enhanced Leverage Fund because the "investment manager believes the company will not have sufficient liquid assets to pay investors." The hedge fund was down 23 percent for the year as of April 30. Countrywide Financial, the largest U.S. mortgage lender, has seen its stock value drop by more than half from February to August.

The number of unsold homes hit a record of 4.4 million in May. As a result, residential construction has been cut back. The Mortgage Bankers Association estimated that 12,000 jobs were lost in the building industry in July.

Iraq war funding

Continued from front page

al Intelligence Estimate warned that withdrawal of troops would worsen sectarian fighting. Sunni and Shiite capitalist forces are at war over control of Iraq's resources. The report said that Washington's military escalation has produced "measurable but uneven improvements" in security.

The intelligence report and a separate report by the congressional Government Accountability Office (GAO) both said the Iraqi government has made little progress in adopting measures aimed at calming the sectarian fighting.

The Bush administration has been pressing the Iraqi government to pass a set of 18 "benchmark" measures. Like Bush's trip to Anbar together with al-Maliki, a Shiite, the measures are aimed at reassuring wealthy Sunnis, who ruled the country under Hussein, that they have a stake in the U.S.-backed government.

The GAO report estimates that at least 13 of the 18 benchmarks have not been met.

The National Intelligence Estimate describes the al-Maliki government as "unable to govern effectively" and in danger of becoming more unstable over the next 6 to 12 months. The main Sunni bloc in the Iraqi government, along with supporters of Shiite cleric al-Sadr, have quit al-Maliki's cabinet in the past months.

The report is more optimistic about Washington's military progress, highlighting growing cooperation with Sunni militias that have turned against al-Qaeda. Washington's military effort in Iraq received a boost August 29 when Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr announced that his Mahdi Army militia would suspend operations for six months. The U.S. military said the suspension of operations by al-Sadr's militia would allow U.S. and Iraqi government troops to intensify their actions against al-Qaeda.

In an August 31 interview with the *Australian* newspaper Gen. David Petraeus, commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, said that the troop escalation has sharply reduced sectarian killings in Baghdad.

The number of civilian deaths in Iraq rose in August, according to AP. Using Iraqi police reports the press agency said 1,809 civilians were reported killed in August, about 50 more than in July. AP said 27,564 Iraqi civilians have been reported killed since the agency began collecting figures on April 28, 2005.

Utah miners

Continued from front page

inspector were also hurt.

Some relatives of the missing miners have insisted that the search continue. Chris Allred, cousin of Kerry Allred, told the *Salt Lake Tribune* that she wished the search had not been called off.

Teams of mine officials and politicians from the state and federal government are carrying out separate investigations. A central question in the mine's collapse is the request by Murray Energy Corp., the owners of Crandall Canyon, to implement a mining plan to remove not only pillars, but the large panels of coal called "barrier pillars" that support the weight of the mountain above and separate one work section from another. The plan was approved by MSHA.

"Everybody knows you don't mess with barriers," a miner, who asked to remain anonymous, told the *Washington Post.*

"Why was the mining plan at Crandall Canyon submitted by Murray Energy when the previous owners of that mine declined to mine the same way, saying there was a problem with 'protection of personnel?' Why did MSHA approve it?" said an August 28 UMWA press release.

The union filed papers with MSHA August 24 saying that all six families of the trapped miners have designated the UMWA as their representative, and therefore the union should be allowed to take part in safety investigations. MSHA rejected the union's petition, excluding them from any MSHA investigations. "MSHA requires that miners sign these papers, but the miners in question were unable because they are trapped inside the mine," union spokesman Phil Smith said, according to the *Salt Lake Tribune.* The UMWA maintains that federal law allows union participation in safety investigations if two or more miners or their families ask the union to represent them.

"This action means that there will be no independent voice at the table in MSHA's investigation," said Cecil Roberts, UMWA president.

An investigative panel put together by the governor of Utah, Jon Huntsman, will hold open hearings in Price and Huntington, Utah. The panel includes local politicians, UMWA safety director Dennis O'Dell, and a representative from the Utah Mining Association, which describes itself as an organization that "helps to promote and protect the mining industry."

On August 26, Murray Energy announced that it would lay off about 170 miners and close its Tower and West Ridge mines because of safety problems. The majority of laid-off miners rejected Murray's offer to relocate to his other mines in Illinois and Ohio. Only about a dozen miners boarded the charter bus heading to the Midwest August 28, reported the *Salt Lake Tribune.*

Omar Reyes of Huntington, who worked at the West Ridge mine, got off the bus and told the *Tribune*, "I don't want to go. That's it." Another miner did the same.

A dozen former Murray miners attended a job workshop August 30 at the local Department of Workforce Service office in Price.

"I think I'm done. I'm done working for Bob Murray and his company," Dustin Montoya told the *Deseret Morning News.* "They kind of try to make you feel better, but they don't really do anything for you," he said, referring to the workshop session.